1:Spier E-5 (1929-1932) 1933 NT15 River Yumans NT15
Maricopa

137 country included within the juncture of the Gila and Salt Rivers. Indeed, this region was so choked with mesquite and other bushes as to be nearly impenetrable. For that reason, being at [649] the same time relatively near the Yavapai, it was dangerous territory. This was also the best region for fishing and abounded in 226 rabbits. Fish were taken mostly in Santa Cruz slough at the northern foot of the Sierra Estrella and at the Salt-Gila confluence. From there the Maricopa drifted up the Salt fishing and gathering to a point just above Phoenix, beyond which it was not safe to go. They did not fish much in the Gila. Family parties [594] went together, camping under the bushes. As the women went [222] out gathering mesquite beans, men would accompany them for [246] protection and to hunt jackrabbits. Camp was frequently shifted [361] as the bushes were stripped clean. It was also their habit to move back and forth between the Gila and Salt to foil any lurking enemies. It was customary to include the whole family on such expeditions, although younger children were ordinarily left home in the care of friends when women went out on a day's excursion.

WILD PLANT PRODUCTS

222 The chief interest in wild plant products lay in the mesquite beans and giant cactus (sahuaro) fruit. Other wild plants were more casually used: the following description includes the principal but is not exhaustive.

Mesquite furnished the plant staple. Two or three varieties of [824] the bush grew in this region: screw and straight bean mesquite, and a subvariety of the latter, differing from the common variety in its large thorns. (It is of interest that the straight bean and its bush bore separate names, iya′ and ana′l,: this was not true of the screw bean, i′i′c, nor the long thorned bean, tŏtxaĕ′tk.) The straight bean variety was most plentiful. These bean pods were said to be softer than those growing in the old Halchidhoma country on the Colorado. Mesquite was gathered from early July to the end of August. Certain trees were known for large or [476] sweet beans, but these were not private property. A group of women would go gathering together for fear of the enemy; several men might be within reach.